

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /089 W

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R 211150Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9589

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR. XM, OAS, AGMN US

SUBJ5: LA OPINION INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD

REF USINFO OF JAN 15

1. LA OPINION JAN 14 FRONTPAGES HERIBERTO KAHN INTERVIEW
WITH AMBASSADOR MILLIARD. MAJOR POINTS OF INTERVIEW WERE:

A. THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO CONSENSUS TO INVITE CUBANS TO
THE MARCH MFM AND THAT AMB MAILLIARD FELT SUCH A CONSENSUS
WAS UNLIKELY TO EVOLVE

B. THAT EVEN IF CUBA NOT PRESENT AT MARCH MFM, CUBAN ISSUE WOULD
BE ONE OF ITEMS DISCUSSED BY PARTICIPANTS

C. THAT REACTION TO US TRADE BILL MUST NOT RPT NOT BE ALLOWED TO
IMPEDE PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH MFM, WHICH WAS OF TRANSCENDENTAL
IMPORTANCE

D. THAT UPON ANALYSIS, POSITIVE FEATURES OF LAW WOULD DOUBTLESS
BE SEEN TO FAR OUTWEIGH ANY OF THE NEGATIVE.

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AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT ONLY COUNTRIES IN ANY WAY AFFECTED BY OPEC PROVISIONS WERE VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR.

2. KAHN ADDED OBSERVATION (SEE REF) THAT LAST POINT COINCIDED WITH VIEWS EXPRESSED PRIVATELY BY ARGENTINE DIPLOMATS THAT INTERESTS OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR WERE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF ARGENTINA--OR OF OTHER HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES--AND THAT OTHERS MUST NOT BE LED INTO CONFRONTATION WITH US IN PURSUIT OF GOALS WHICH WERE EXCLUSIVELY VENEZUELAN.

3. TONE OF KAHN PIECE WAS VERY POSITIVE AND CONCLUSION NOTED ABOVE REFLECTS MORE REALISM AND BALANCE ON SUBJECT THAT ANY PRESS REACTION WE HAVE SEEN HERE TO DATE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ALSO FELT ARTICLE TO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. ONLY MINOR (AND EPHEMERAL) PROBLEM WAS THAT KAHN QUOTED AMBASSADOR AS SAYING THAT VIGNES HAD SOLICITED COLLABORATION OF US TO ASSURE SUCCESS OF MARCH MFM. WHAT AMBASSADOR HAD, IN FACT, SAID WAS THAT US WAS PREPARED TO HELP IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE MFM A SUCCESS. AT JAN 14 MEETING WITH FONMIN VIGNES, LATTER REQUESTED THAT IN PRESS CONFERENCE LATER THAT SAME DAY AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, SINCE KAHN VERSION COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING TO FOREIGN MINISTER. AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD AGREED AND AT CONFERENCE STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED AND HAD, IN FACT, SIMPLY SAID THAT US WILLING TO COLLABORATE IN MAKING THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS. AMBASSADOR PULIT CALLED NEXT DAY TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD'S CLARIFICATION AND SAID FONMIN VIGNES VERY PLEASED BY OUTCOME OF PRESS CONFERENCE AND BY GENERAL TREATMENT WHICH AMBASSADOR'S VISIT HAD RECEIVED IN PRESS. HILL

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